

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A deceleration-limiting barrier, comprising:  
2 a net;  
3 anchors; and  
4 a flexible strip arranged to secure the net to the anchors, with portions of the strip  
5 joined together in a manner as to be susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less  
6 than a load capacity of the strip.

2. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the portions of the strip are joined with  
fasteners having a tensile strength that is less than a tensile strength of the strip.

3. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the fasteners are stitched into the portions of  
the strip.

4. The barrier of claim 1, further comprising a first sacrificial panel adapted to  
hold up the net in a vertical position.

5. The barrier of claim 4, wherein the first sacrificial panel includes a smooth  
surface on one side.

Q3 1        6. The barrier of claim 4, further comprising a second sacrificial panel, the first  
2        and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the net therebetween.

1        7. The barrier of claim 1, wherein a plurality of barriers are placed end-to-end  
2        alongside a roadway.

1        8. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a substantially constant  
2        level of deceleration.

1        9. The barrier of claim 1, wherein the strip provides a non-constant level of  
2        deceleration.

1 Q45 10. A barrier for limiting decelerating of a moving body, comprising:  
2        means for receiving and retaining the moving body;  
3        means for anchoring the receiving and retaining means; and  
4        means for decelerating the moving body in a controlled manner to thereby limit the  
5        deceleration thereof to below a predefined maximum deceleration level.

1        41. — The barrier of claim 10, further comprising means for holding up the  
2        receiving means in a vertical position.

1        12.      The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a  
2        substantially constant level of deceleration.

1        13.      The barrier of claim 10, wherein the deceleration means provides a  
2        non-constant level of deceleration.

1        14. — A deceleration-limiting roadway barrier system, comprising:  
2        a first row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside a roadway;  
3        a second row of barriers positioned end-to-end alongside the first row of barriers, the  
4        barriers of the first row being staggered from the barriers of the second row;  
5        a plurality of anchors fixedly mounted in the ground alongside the roadway; and  
6        each barrier comprising a net and one or more flexible strips arranged to secure the  
7        net to one or more anchors, with portions of each strip joined together in a manner as to be  
8        susceptible to being pulled apart under a load that is less than a load capacity of the strip.

1        15. — The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier further  
2        comprises a first sacrificial panel adapted to hold up the net in a vertical position.

1        16. — The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein the first sacrificial panel  
2        includes a smooth surface on one side.

1           17. The roadway barrier system of claim 15, wherein each barrier further  
2           comprises a second sacrificial panel, the first and second sacrificial panels sandwiching the  
3           net therebetween.

1           18. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a  
2           substantially constant level of deceleration.

1           19. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein the strip provides a  
2           non-constant level of deceleration.

1           20. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of  
2           support members mounted alongside the first and second row of barriers.

1           21. The roadway barrier system of claim 14, wherein each barrier has a male  
2           portion and a corresponding female portion of a mated joint.

1           22. A method of decelerating a moving body, comprising:  
2           receiving the moving body in a net;  
3           deploying a plurality of energy absorbing straps attached to the net;  
4           decelerating the moving body using the energy absorbing straps; and  
5           limiting the deceleration of the moving body to below a predefined maximum  
6           deceleration level.

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1        23. The method of claim 22, further comprising supporting the net with a first  
2        sacrificial panel that is also capable of deflecting moving bodies colliding tangentially  
3        therewith.

*Ad Q8* 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising sandwiching the net between the  
2        first sacrificial panel and a second sacrificial panel.

1        25.      The method of claim 22, further comprising anchoring a first row of nets  
2        end-to-end alongside a roadway and a second row of nets end-to-end alongside the first row.

1        26.      The method of claim 25, wherein the nets in the first row are staggered  
2        relative to the nets in the second row.

1        27.      The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at  
2        a substantially constant deceleration.

1        28.      The method of claim 22, further comprising decelerating the moving body at  
2        a non-constant deceleration.

